

LMHC Information Sheet #9

Description of colour-change in gemstones

- Definitions
- **Report wording**

Members of the Laboratory Manual Harmonisation Committee (LMHC) have standardised the nomenclature that they use to describe colour-change gemstones and alexandrite.

Definitions:

Colour-change: Daylight:	main hue in daylight differs from that seen in incandescent light. for the purposes of this comparison calibrated daylight corresponding to a range
Incandescent light:	between 5500K to 6500K shall be used. for the purposes of this comparison standard incandescent light corresponding to a range between 2700K and 3600K shall be used.
Alexandrite:	a chromium bearing variety of chyrsoberyl showing a colour-change.

Report wording:

A) Any colour-change gemstone shall be described as:

Description:

Colour:	[colour] ³ in daylight, [colour] ³ in incandescent light
Identification: Group ¹ : Species: Variety:	[group] ³ (natural) ¹ [species] ³ (natural) ² colour-change [Species/Variety] ³

B) Any alexandrite shall be described as:

Description: Colour:	[colour] ³ in daylight, [colour] ³ in incandescent light
Identification: Species:	(natural) ¹ chrysoberyl
Variety:	(natural) ² alexandrite

Note: All treatments applied to the above gemstones shall be noted.

¹ wording and text in parenthesis is optional

² text in parenthesis is optional and shall only be used for natural untreated stones

³ text in brackets represents a place holder

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